Shipping of Plasmids on Filter Paper

Sending:

1) Mark a circled area with a pencil (not a marker pen) on a clean Whatman #1 filter paper (or equivalent).
2) Spot about 2 µg of plasmid DNA into the circle. Allow the filter paper dry at room temperature.
3) Insert spotted filter paper inside a plastic bag and heat-seal it.
4) Send by regular (air) mail.

Receiving:

1) To recover the DNA, use clean gloves and cut the marked circle area that contains the dried plasmid DNA.
2) Using clean forceps, insert the filter paper into a 1.5 ml micro centrifuge tube. Add 100 µl of TE buffer, vortex briefly and incubate at room temperature for 5 minutes. Vortex again and centrifuge the tube for a few seconds.
3) Remove about 10 µl of supernatant for use in transfecting E. coli by electroporation or chemical means. Please do not try to use the DNA directly for any application other than to transform bacteria and prepare a plasmid stock.
4) Store the remainder of the filter paper/TE mix at -20 or -80 C as a permanent archive in case that your plasmid stock ever gets lost or if something turns out to be wrong with it.

Weimbs Lab • Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
• University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9610

UCSB

Updated 3-oct-11